

2662265

Registered provider: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home registered in November 2021 and is owned by a local authority.

The home provides care for up to two children who have social and/or emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager has been in post since March 2023 and is not yet registered with Ofsted.

Two children were living at the home at the time of the inspection.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 May 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 25 May 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/05/2022	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are happy and settled. They are making progress because they are receiving good-quality individualised care from staff who know them well. Children have secure relationships with staff and respond to the nurturing and consistent care they receive. This provides children with a sense of belonging.

Children have improved health because of the help and support they receive. Staff help children to talk about their fears and anxieties. As a result, children's engagement with health services has improved and they are better able to meet their own health needs. Children with additional health needs are accessing local services, which means that they are receiving the right support.

Staff talk to children about their emotional and mental health. They respond sensitively to children when they are experiencing difficult feelings and emotions. This gives children an understanding about how they are feeling and provides them with the skills to develop better coping strategies.

Children's progress in education is mixed. The manager and staff advocate for children to ensure that they receive the right support in school. Not all children are accessing formal education. However, the manager and staff understand the barriers to education for some children. Staff make efforts to provide structure to the day and opportunities for informal learning.

Children have access to a range of social activities, such as go-karting, day trips to the coast and rock climbing. Some children enjoy playing board games and doing arts and crafts at home, while others like to spend time in the community with their friends.

Children are supported to develop their independence according to their individual needs and abilities. This helps to prepare children to live independently when they move on from the home.

Staff have open and honest conversations with children in line with the child's plan. They respond sensitively to children when they talk about topics that are specific to the child's individual needs. Records of conversations between children and staff capture the child's wishes and feelings.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Children are happy and settled. Staff understand children's individual vulnerabilities and risks, and they are clear about their responsibility to ensure that children are better protected. Staff are curious about the risks to children, which means that they respond immediately when the risks to children change.

There are episodes of children going missing from the home. Staff are clear on the steps they need to follow, including searching for the child and reporting them missing. Because staff are flexible in their response, including the arrangements for collecting children when they go out in the community with their friends, this has led to a decrease in the frequency of missing-from-care episodes. This positive approach means that the risks to children are reduced.

The home does not use rewards or consequences, and physical restraint has not been used on children. Children respond to the consistent boundaries and structure at the home. The staff set high expectations about behaviour. They encourage children to talk about their feelings. They provide children with unconditional care and use praise to motivate positive behaviour. This helps children to be solution focused and to look for positive ways to express how they are feeling.

Serious incidents are rare. When they occur, staff respond appropriately and take effective action. The manager and staff consult with the relevant agencies for help to support the children. Staff talk to the children about the incident. However, discussions about risks are not always revisited, which is a missed opportunity to ensure that children are equipped to make decisions to keep themselves better protected.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is aspirational about the outcomes for children. He is committed to the home's model of care and is a positive role model to the staff. This means that staff are motivated and equipped to provide children with consistent and nurturing care.

Despite the brief time in post, the manager knows the strengths of the home and has a clear vision for development. He has strong oversight of the home, of the progress children are making and of staff development. While shortfalls in a staff member's response to an incident involving a child have been identified and addressed, there is no record to demonstrate how the child has been supported.

The monitoring and auditing systems are effective. The manager has identified shortfalls and acted to address them promptly. This has led to improved systems of consultation with families and children and the monitoring of staff recruitment and training.

Staff say that they feel supported by the manager. They receive regular supervision that provides them with the opportunity to reflect on practice and discuss the progress the children are making. Team meetings have not always taken place regularly. However, the manager has changed the system to ensure that meetings are scheduled and planned, which has increased the frequency that they take place.

The manager has established strong relationships with professionals involved in the children's care. There is evidence of multi-agency working, which means that

children are receiving the right help and support. The manager confidently challenges others to ensure that children's plans are being met and that the actions taken are in children's best interests.

The manager has responded to a parent's complaint about the home in line with the organisation's procedures. The complaint has been thoroughly investigated, and the recommended actions have been taken. This has included ongoing meetings between the manager, the child's social worker and the parent. This ensures that relationships are strengthened and demonstrates that complaints are taken seriously.

What does the children's home need to do to improve? Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that staff have the skills to respond to each child's behaviour. Where necessary, they should maintain constructive dialogue and react appropriately if challenged by a child in their care. In particular, the child should be provided with the opportunity and be supported to discuss the behaviour and the incident. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 39, paragraph 8.14)
- The registered person should ensure that staff support children to be aware of and manage their own safety inside and outside the home to the extent that any good parent would. Staff should help children to understand how to protect themselves, feel protected and be protected from significant harm. This relates to ensuring that staff revisit conversations about online safety with one child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.9)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2662265

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

Responsible individual: Simon Breeds

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Rachel Webster, Social Care Inspector

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